

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17.

Possibly Allen O. Myers might be induced to climb the boulder stump in Virginia.

The most pessimistic of chronic grumbler can no longer deny that business is reviving.

Without the saddle of his uncle Flitz Lee's circus would be as dull as a Quaker funeral.

The Virginia Republicans are content to work and leave bombastic boasting to the boulders.

Yes, there are miracles in our day. Thousands of Ohio Democrats voted the Prohibition ticket.

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The tariff is not likely to be damaged, but Mr. Morrison will get hurt again if he persists in fooling with a great master that can't understand.

THE New York Tribune should wait for cooler weather before completing the stirring up of David B. Hill's record. Quinine is an unpleasant medicine.

It would be safe to bet—if betting were not reprehensible—that the first ship to cross from ocean to ocean will go to whom, not through the Panama canal.

MR. RANDALL's friends are defying Carondelet to give the chairmanship of the appropriation committee to "any other man." He will not accept the challenge.

OUR enforcement of civil service reform should be gracefully mounted in the national Thanksgiving proclamation as a fit thing for which to render thanks.

ABOUT this time the average Democratic congressman is engaged in putting the finishing touches to a neat little seven-column speech in favor of a bill to repair the civil service law.

SENATOR MCPHERSON predicts a red-hot session of Congress. With six theaters between Eighth and Sixteenth streets and two lively circuses on Capitol Hill Washington may expect any amount of fun this winter.

HUNDREDS of stalwart Democrats in the District of Columbia frankly admit that they are pleased with the Ohio results. They hope to see a reversal of the policy at the white house, but they may be doomed to disappointment.

WHEN the day comes, seen by Mr. Channing's prophetic eye, and there is no longer a house of lords, the ungracious Baltimore American hopes to hear of many more noble peers engaged in the business of selling coal or driving lansons or bottling beer.

AT least a dozen of the newly arrived office-seekers are veterans who vainly hunted for places under Grant, Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur. They are just about as good Democrats now as they were Republicans then, their political creed being nothing but the saying goes, so the veteran soldier becomes callous to the possibilities of the patent adjustable sort.

THE head of the signal service was to be fitted out with an advisory board it might be possible to have better weather without increasing the cost. We do not know of any device in the public service that has proved of so much utility as that of an advisory board. No bureau should be without one or more.

THE next House of Representatives follows the example of the last, most of its bills will be consumed in deciding what bills are to be taken up. In other words, it will devote each day to determining what it shall do that day. The rules of the House are so bad that words cannot describe them. It would be an improvement if the House could swap codes with a well-regulated bear garden.

WHATEVER may be thought of water in whisky or milk, it is undoubtedly a great thing in telegraph stocks. The report of the Western Union Company for their last fiscal year shows that seventeen million seven hundred thousand dollars was received for "revenues and profits," out of which all expenses were paid, nearly five millions of dollars was distributed in dividends, and the "surplus account" was increased by \$165,500.

THE Philadelphia Inquirer regrets that Student Cleveland could not make his civil service acts consistent with his civil service professions, and remove no efficient public officer for political reasons, but he could not; he turned out the Republicans and put in Democrats. He did, however, for all the chief offices in Philadelphia select good Democrats, men of ability and integrity, and none of them offensive partisans. Their respectability is extremely offensive in the estimation of a good many thousand Democrats in the Quaker City.

AS RECENTLY intimated in our telegraphic news, the cowboys of the border counties of Arizona, having discovered an old law—the creation of cowboy county commissioners—offering large rewards for Indian scalps, are organizing scalping parties to exterminate the Indians and at the same time accumulate wealth at the expense of the taxpayers of the state, which suggests to the New York Journal of Commerce that the cowboys are more in need of civilization than the Indians are, which is probably true of many of them, including all those scalpers.

THE Brooklyn Union, which did all in its power toward helping to elect Mr. Cleveland and has heartily supported his administration, makes the statement, on competent authority, that 700 men added to the Brooklyn navy yard payroll as first-class mechanics, the vast majority would find it hard work to get in private employ a third-class place. In short, the Union says, employment in the construction department of the navy yard as a skilled workman is given on the recommendation of the Democratic patronage committee of New York and Brooklyn, and not because of any special experience or ability.

A WAR REMINISCENCE.

PERSONAL COURAGE SEVERELY TESTED ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

The Feelings of a Private Soldier on the Eve of His First Fight—Brave Men Made Cowards by Having to March to Possible Death.

The question is often asked of veterans, "How do soldiers feel about to go into battle and when they are actually engaged in conflict?" It has been stated that every man must feel more or less afraid in facing such a momentous issue, and that he is the bravest who by virtue of mental and moral force is enabled to beat down the natural shrinking of human nature from such an ordeal. I have seen the question answered in various ways in the public press, but to me it seems not satisfactorily. I have often talked over the matter with soldiers on both sides in perfect frankness and I acknowledge that the statements made in regard to it are not different from what I have learned to date. That I can settle the question, but as I was given to study this sort of thing during the war, and to note any incident that threw light on the subject matter, my observations, as far as I recollect, may be of interest to soldiers and others.

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SUFFERING COMRADES IGNORED.

Another thing that struck me forcibly was the number of feelings shown on the part of the battle line for their dead wounded comrades.

In the battle of Williamsburg, the men were ordered to stand by and watch the disorderly conduct prevented the candidate of a great party for governor, Hon. John S. Thompson, from getting his due share of the questions of the maintenance of the public free schools, labor and capital, tariff and free trade, and the like.

The resolutions endorsed popular education and the public free school system, "which has had a decided influence upon the public education, and the misappropriation of the public school funds of the state, whereby the tax-payers are compelled to pay twice for the same school."

Now, when we were over the Potomac, we were told that the same man had been shot through the body in the first volley. Now this fellow had no thoughts of courage as far as personal fight went.

He was willing to fight any man with fists, rifle, pistol, sword, or knife—something the was tangible and that he knew of—but he was not willing to stand by and watch the battle, where his strength and fitness in the use of weapons were of no avail, but sunk like a baby, and was the victim of the brutes that had whipped the North Carolina brigades in front of us, and he died in the hospital at Williamsburg a few days thereafter.

They opposed "the unjust taxes imposed upon the people of the South by the Southern legislature"—so bordenave in the battle line.

The remaining soldiers opposed un-unionists everywhere, and in every form, but especially the infliction which the people of the South suffered at the hands of the men who had been over the Potomac.

Now, in consequence of the battle line, the men in some places were not more than five yards apart. The result, mostly from the want of space, was that it rendered it almost impossible to see six feet in advance, and it was under these conditions and at that time of day (4 p.m.) that I was buckled in with Sickles' New York regiments and fought them for over an hour and a half in the fallen timber at a very great distance.

Now, in consequence with the habitude of the regiment (including 800 men), it was necessary to stand off, and the men were not able to see each other.

As far as I can remember, the rear rank men, who crouched at the rear rank men for firing, so close to their ears, in some cases, were not able to see each other.

I think the men written enough to prove that the rear rank men had their hair singed by the blaze of the rifles of the rear rank men. It wasn't so afterward, for as we gained experience we fought in more open order. Of course, the rear rank men were not so close to their ears, but, in talking over the matter many afterward declared that while they felt the full gravity of the situation, that the next moment might be their last.

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